

**To:** gary s[garys-nj@hotmail.com]; Tim Kubiak[tim\_kubiak@fws.gov]  
**Cc:** Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil[lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil]; Mehran, Reyhan (NOAA)[Reyhan.Mehran@noaa.gov]; Janine.MacGregor@dep.state.nj.us[janine.macgregor@dep.state.nj.us]; kearnycommunitygarden@gmail.com[kearnycommunitygarden@gmail.com]  
**From:** Yeh, Alice  
**Sent:** Fri 12/27/2013 2:41:02 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Soil Testing on Passaic Riverbank in Kearny NJ.

I'm sorry, there is no way that EPA can spend Superfund funds for this testing.

**From:** gary s [mailto:garys-nj@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 26, 2013 3:03 PM  
**To:** Tim Kubiak  
**Cc:** Yeh, Alice; Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil; Mehran, Reyhan (NOAA); Janine.MacGregor@dep.state.nj.us; kearnycommunitygarden@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Soil Testing on Passaic Riverbank in Kearny NJ.

Thanks Tim,

The Bioassay sounds great (and right priced). Before I reach out to them and our folks here for funding, **Alice, is there any way the EPA can cover the expense and/or support the effort as an extension of the Superfund Work?**

I will also reach out to Lisa Rodenburg and plan to tap into Organic Gardening and Urban gardening experts (perhaps SustainableJersey can help?).

thank again everyone for helping us to use the land and do the right thing.

garyS

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**From:** [tim\\_kubiak@fws.gov](mailto:tim_kubiak@fws.gov)  
**Date:** Tue, 24 Dec 2013 08:47:20 -0500  
**Subject:** RE: Soil Testing on Passaic Riverbank in Kearny NJ.  
**To:** [garys-nj@hotmail.com](mailto:garys-nj@hotmail.com)  
**CC:** [yeh.alice@epa.gov](mailto:yeh.alice@epa.gov); [lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil); [reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov](mailto:reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov); [janine.macgregor@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:janine.macgregor@dep.state.nj.us)

Hi Gary,

Here is the contact information I promised to send along as a result of our telephone conversation yesterday.

The following webpage is for Xenobiotic Detection Systems, the commercial firm I mentioned to you. <http://www.dioxins.com/index.html>

I have not spoken to Lisa Rodenburg about your issue, but try contacting her.

The following webpage provides her contact information.

She may be able to offer some technical assistance.

[html](#)

<http://envsci.rutgers.edu/php/totten.html>

Please feel free to follow-up with me.

Happy Holidays,

Tim

Timothy J. Kubiak

Assistant Supervisor – Environmental Contaminants

New Jersey Field Office

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

927 North Main Street Building D

Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232

Telephone: 609-646-9310 x26

609-383-3938 x26

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Email: [tim\\_kubiak@fws.gov](mailto:tim_kubiak@fws.gov)

Internet: [www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice)

**From:** gary s [<mailto:garys-nj@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2013 11:08 PM

**To:** [yeh.alice@epa.gov](mailto:yeh.alice@epa.gov); [Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil); [reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov](mailto:reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov); [Janine.MacGregor@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Janine.MacGregor@dep.state.nj.us); [tim\\_kubiak@fws.gov](mailto:tim_kubiak@fws.gov)

**Subject:** RE: Soil Testing on Passaic Riverbank in Kearny NJ.

Hi!

I'll call each of you tomorrow and I'm sorry for not following up sooner but can you bubble this up to the top of your action pile? At least to talk about it?

thanks in advance.

gary schetlick

(201) 207-9987

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From: [garys-nj@hotmail.com](mailto:garys-nj@hotmail.com)

To: [yeh.alice@epa.gov](mailto:yeh.alice@epa.gov); [lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil); [reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov](mailto:reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov); [janine.macgregor@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:janine.macgregor@dep.state.nj.us); [tim\\_kubiak@fws.gov](mailto:tim_kubiak@fws.gov)

Subject: Soil Testing on Passaic Riverbank in Kearny NJ.

Date: Fri, 6 Dec 2013 11:15:12 -0500

TO:

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**

**Region 2**

290 Broadway

New York, NY 10007-1866

Contact: Alice Yeh

Phone: (212) 637-4427

e-mail: [yeh.alice@epa.gov](mailto:yeh.alice@epa.gov)

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**Programs & Project Management Division**

26 Federal Plaza - Room 2119  
New York, NY 10278-0090  
Contact: Lisa A. Baron  
Phone: 917-790-8306  
e-mail: [Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil)

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**National Ocean Service-Office of Response and Restoration**  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
Contact: Reyhan Mehran  
Phone: 212-637-3257  
e-mail: [reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov](mailto:reyhan.mehran@noaa.gov)

**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**  
**Site Remediation Program**  
401 E. State Street  
6th Floor, East Wing  
PO Box 028  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Contact: Janine MacGregor  
Phone: (609) 633-0784  
e-mail: [Janine.MacGregor@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:Janine.MacGregor@dep.state.nj.us)

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**New Jersey Field Office-Ecological Services**  
927 North Main Street, Building D  
Pleasantville, NJ 08232  
Contact: Tim Kubiak  
Phone: 609-646-9310 ext. 26  
e-mail: [tim\\_kubiak@fws.gov](mailto:tim_kubiak@fws.gov)

reference: <http://www.ourpassaic.org/ContactUs.aspx>

hello -

I'm involved with a community garden in Kearny nj on the banks of the Passaic river. I know that this area of the Passaic River is heavily contaminated with a variety of hazardous substances, including dioxin, PCBs, mercury, DDT, pesticides and heavy metals and our Kearny Community Garden falls within the [Lower Passaic River Restoration Project](#) Study Area. I found below report which indicates that areas that have flooded around the polluted sections of river are not dangerous for people to use. But the report doesn't address growing edible vegetables in the soil...

Can you comment or advise? I believe that the river has flooded this area on some rare occasions (hurricane sandy) but definitely not often.

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/pdf/soilsamp\\_report.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/pdf/soilsamp_report.pdf)

I also understand it is possible the soil might not be safe for planting because of contamination from businesses that no longer exist on the property (I don't know that there was ever any businesses there but I guess it's possible). So in this light, we should have the soil tested.

Seeing as our Kearny Community Garden is located within the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project Study Area and the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project is a partnership designed to restore degraded shorelines, restore and create new habitats and **enhance human use** along this 17-mile stretch of the lower Passaic, can you advise on planting there and are there any free soil testing options??? The Kearny Community Garden is already a successful beautification project and so joining forces only makes sense as the Kearny Community Garden is exactly that which the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project was designed to create. We are your success story.

Thanks in advance for your timely response. Please note that we are already planning and raising funds for Spring Planting and so the completion of this soil testing milestone is becoming urgent. In this light, we may be pursuing other testing options but feel working within the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project is the best solution.

best regards,  
gary schetlick  
16 dukes street apt 2L  
Kearny, NJ 07032